

U.S. # 1

1981

# Skipmunk

*A Story of Chicopee*





Has anybody heard the forecast for tomorrow? Rain? Just in time for the weekend... again? We'll have to postpone our trip then, but at least we'll save on the fuel—for the time being.

With the increasing complexity of problems that we face each day, it almost seems a comfort that the weather still ranks highly among important topics of conversation. Yet, we hold our breath as we anticipate the monthly inflation figures. It seems a short time ago that a five per cent annual inflation increase seemed incredible; but today, we would gladly accept five per cent as a sign of a positive reversal trend.

Of all the items responsible for the soaring figures, however, energy ranks first as the most awesome; for while we can easily postpone our trip for a week or two, we still must heat our homes, and travel to and from our jobs. A short time ago, we laughed at the prediction of one dollar for the cost of a gallon of gasoline, but now we know that that figure is a permanent figure. Government agencies tell us that we must conserve and cut—and so we do, as we have no choice. We'll travel less. We'll cancel that trip. We'll enjoy a relaxing weekend at home.

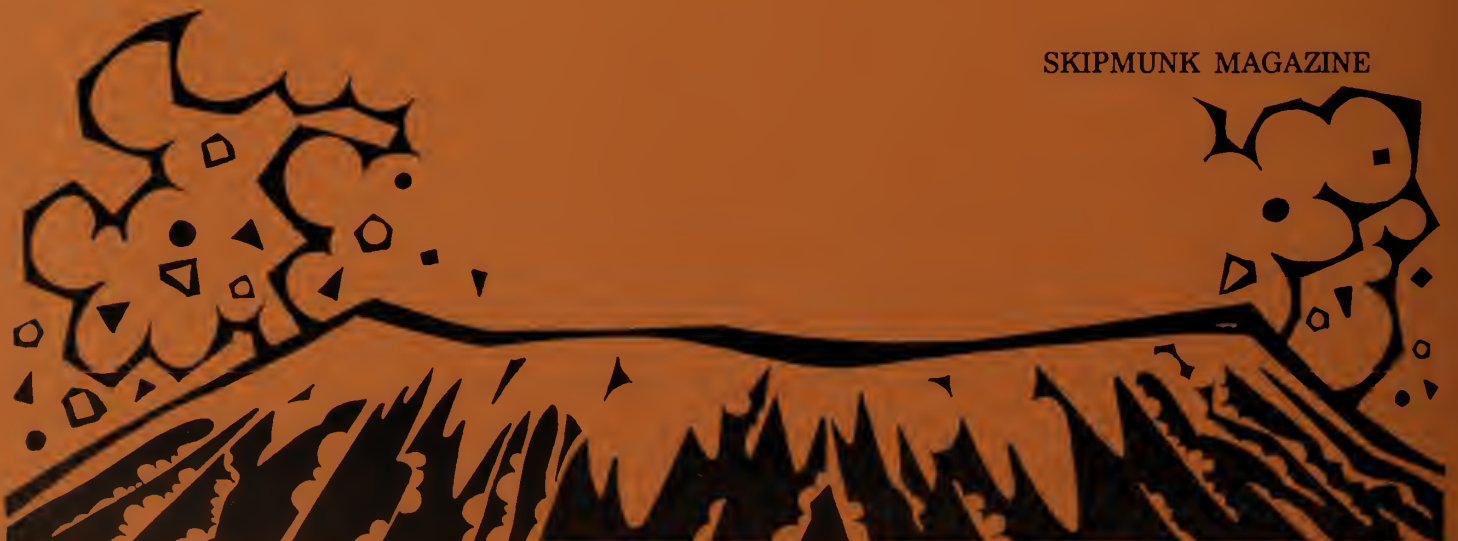
But relief is momentary, for while at home, we'll read and hear about rising crime locally, racial disturbances a few miles to the north, and increasing taxes everywhere. But taxes, at least, is one area that we have a voice in. We'll speak out to our elected legislators and city aldermen, and suggest areas to cut dollars. But then we are told that state mandated laws for special education are responsible for a large portion of the school budget increases.

Are these problems new? Of course not. Those who wish they could have lived two hundred years ago to avoid such problems, will find, with a little research, those same problems existed then, too. Many people returning home from the Revolutionary War found their homes with new mortgages, their taxes higher, and their families in debt. Non-payment often meant loss of property or imprisonment. Such situations led to Shay's Rebellion right here in Western Massachusetts!

Yes, in 1779, the inhabitants of this area spoke out about many of the same problems, and you can be sure that two of the most important topics of conversation then were education and the week's forecast. Thus, we feel it quite appropriate to feature The Little Red Schoolhouse in this seventh issue of SKIPMUNK MAGAZINE, for this building is one of the most real links between the past and today.

So if the forecast for the weekend is rain, we hope that our Magazine can fill your leisure moments with some pleasure, and it is in that spirit that we present to you Volume III, Number 1 of SKIPMUNK MAGAZINE.

SKIPMUNK MAGAZINE





ALDENVILLE BRISTOL COUNTY  
CHICOPEE, MA. 01013

Ref 974.42S628 Vol 3

No 1 Summer 1981



*Photo by Jan Balicki*

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## TABLE of CONTENTS

### FEATURE:

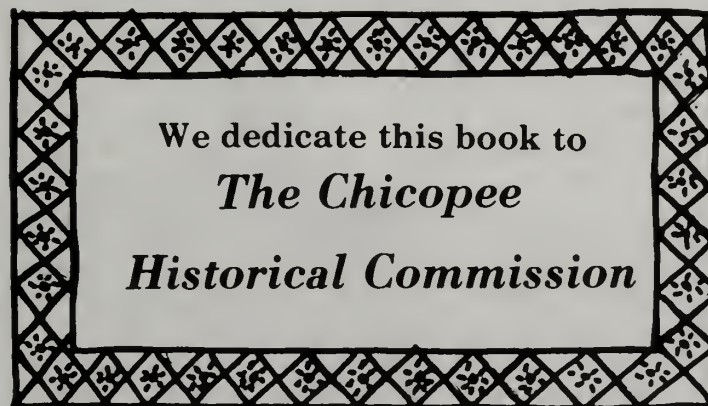
	page
<b>Glimpses of an Educational Era Gone By</b> by Ann Marie Starzyk.....	4
<b>Poems</b> by Lynne LeBlanc and Phillip Rodowicz .....	7
<b>The Parson's Devil</b> by Diane Lignard.....	8
<b>Melzar Mosman</b> by Diane Lignard.....	12
<b>Chicopee's Contemporary Poet</b> by Mary Peters.....	14
<b>Recipes</b> .....	20
<b>The Men Who Made A Bank And Started A Town</b> by Stephen R. Jendrysik.....	22
<b>Cholera In Chicopee</b> by Joan Mamicki.....	30



"CHICOPEE"

Birch Bark Place and Raging Waters

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Many of the articles appearing in this issue were accompanied by bibliographies and reference sources. Any questions on such matters should be sent to the editors, and they will be answered within ninety days of postmark. If sufficient requests occur, sources will be printed in subsequent issues. Send all correspondence to:

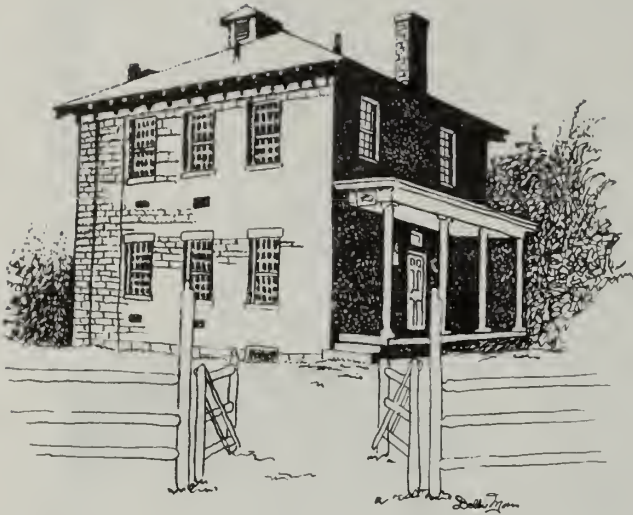
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# Glimpses of an Educational Era Gone By

By: Ann Marie Starzyk  
Research By: Jeanne Milkay and Ann Marie  
Starzyk



“School days, school days, dear old golden rule days, reading and writing and ‘rithmetic, taught to the tune of the hickory stick...” is part of an old song which jolts minds and enables us to recollect those many memories of our own school days. But what was school life like before we went to school? Were the “3 ‘R’s” persistently stressed? Was the hickory stick used as an instrument for “learning?” We at Skipmunk Magazine would like you to join us on a journey back to Chicopee in the 1800’s, and share educational life in the Little Red Schoolhouse on Chicopee Street.

This schoolhouse was built in 1847, and for awhile it remained the central place of education in Chicopee. School was in session for three months during winters under the supervision of a male teacher in order to secure satisfactory behavior from students. Often times an Amherst college student was employed during winter for \$12.00 to \$16.00 per month. He obtained board by living in different households from which students were sent for his instruction. A school marm was in charge of the school during its four months of summer operation. She would also board in different households receiving a salary from \$1.25 to \$2.00 per week.

In the school there were three rows of seats, with desks on three sides of the room. The back seats were for the boys on one side and girls were seated on the other side. Way up in front of the

room were seats for those who were learning the alphabet. The door was located on the south front, and next to it was the large fireplace where wood, up to 4 feet long, was burned. The wood used was usually green and gathered from the forest to keep up the supply, which was never greater than the demand. Near the fireplace was the teacher’s desk, from where all lessons were given.

The class began with a reading of a chapter in the Testament, each pupil reading a verse until the chapter was completed; then their studies began. The first exercise was in writing. Each pupil had a few sheets of paper and a ruler with which he ruled his paper for course or fine hand, according to his progress. Each family’s goose furnished quills for the pens, which the teacher was required to make and mend. Ink was made from the extract of maple bark from oak trees, which pupils prepared at home.

Each student brought books for studies as they chose, however, there were a few principal textbooks which most of the children used. Daboll was the main textbook in arithmetic, but others were used soon after. For Geography, Morse’s textbook was utilized, but it did not contain maps and only sketchily described different portions of the world. Therefore, Goodrich’s and Olney’s Geography textbooks were used because they contained an atlas, by which greater progress could be made. Geography lessons were very simple





because no state existed west of the Mississippi, and from Ohio west and north was a vast territory which had been only scantily explored. The reading book for advanced classes was the English reader. Extracts from Goldsmith, Pope, Cowper, Milton, Addison, Shakespeare, Young and Thompson furnished themes for lessons.

Lessons were recited until 10:30 a.m. when the girls and boys went outside for a ten minute recess. At noon the pupils went to their dinners at home, and were required to be back in school at one o'clock. In the afternoon, English grammar lessons were labored over. Murray's grammar book was the principal textbook.

During studies, if a whisper was heard without permission, the violator was liable to be called to the middle of the floor, hold out his hands and receive several strokes from a "ferule" some two feet long, two inches wide and one inch thick. Many times blisters would arise on hands, but the punishment was not stopped until the student promised much better behavior. Girls were not often punished on this manner because they behaved better. Whenever a girl had to be punished, she was made to sit with the boys. In the 1800's, this was considered a sufficient means of punishment as well as a disgrace.

The period of attending school was from 4 to 17 or 18 years of age in winter, to 11 or 12 in summer, the older boys being required on the farm where there was work to be done. Every Saturday morning, the catechism was recited and questions were answered. At the end of the term, parents came to observe what progress their children had made. The pupil's writing books were passed around and a recitation of their studies was presented.

Many decades have long passed since the old days of the Little Red Schoolhouse. Gone are the pupils of the 1840's the ferules and the Murray grammar books. However, the Little Red Schoolhouse itself still stoically stands on Chicopee Street. It has weathered all the elements and undergone a restoration, but still it stands, keeping within it the glorious, bittersweet memories of old school days.

*INFORMATION FOR THIS ARTICLE  
WAS FOUND IN THE CHICOPEE PUBLIC  
LIBRARY FILES.*





*Sketch by Ellen Soja*

## TIME

*by Lynne LeBlanc*

Time

Passes by like a merry-go-round.  
Stops for no one, it stands on hard ground.  
Strikes the sad and sorry in its trail.  
Brings us bad weather, like rain and hail.

Time

Goes on Everlasting, forever.  
Can't be stopped by pulling a lever.  
It prowls, knows neither night, nor day.  
Has no pleasures, gets it's own way.

Time

Makes things and people grow with old age.  
Helps us to live, get our working wage.  
Goes by us fast, sometimes it is kind.  
Is not human, but has its own mind.

Time

Is in our houses, it's in the air.  
Makes us explore, tells us to beware.  
Says, if we are good, we should not hide.  
Takes us to God, we stand by his side.



*Sketch by Ellen Soja*



## MY GRANDFINALE

*by Phillip Rodowicz*

This day my life began to cease  
A new challenge. A new lease,  
But here I lie, sadness looms  
I realize now, not all great gloom.

As I think back on what has past,  
I pensively ponder what these writings amassed.  
And none could know the gleam there was,  
It was all just because---because---

The day I die all thoughts, all acts  
Will be reduced to dates, to facts,  
And soon before my soul begotten  
Will these dates be but forgotten?

On many times, in many ways  
I've known golden instants and bright days.

Today as I began to know  
I, a part of a great, great show.

# The Parson's Devil

Written by: Johnson  
Book About: George M. Stearns

Stearns was born in Rowe, Massachusetts in the year 1831. His father was a pastor of a Unitarian church. Stearns was a wild young man and his father was a pastor of a church. He received the nickname- "The Parson's Devil".

He was smart in school, and could learn all his lessons for the day in about one third of an hour. He would be very mischievous and was always playing pranks on fellow classmates-like putting a bent pin on someone's seat, or putting a baked apple in a likely spot to be sat upon by some unsuspecting girl in the class. Stearns would get licked regularly by his teacher for these pranks.

For entertainment, occasional public recreations were furnished but mostly it was just Sunday-school picnics. The thing that bothered Stearns the most as a kid was having his clothes made large enough for him to grow into.

At the age of thirteen, he agreed to deliver the mail at intervals of once a week to the neighboring town of Florida. For this, he was paid thirty-five cents a journey, and most of his wages were spent on candy, which he gave to a little red-haired girl. On his twenty mile mail route, he delivered mostly newspapers.

At fourteen, he went to Greenfield and tried to work in a country variety store, but after a week, he had about enough of this and returned home. One day that year, a farmer approached young Stearns and offered him a job plowing. Stearns jumped at the chance and worked for a day in a field full of rocks and stones. When Stearns went to receive payment for his work, the farmer gave him three eggs. After receiving the eggs and not the money, Stearns thought he would throw the eggs back into the farmer's face.

A year went by, and Stearns began attending an academy at Shelburne Falls. At 17, the question of how young Stearns was to make a living came up. He had gone on many trips to Greenfield with his father. His father knew several lawyers and George was aware that these lawyers always lived in the

finest homes, and had an easy job. So law became the course of life he decided to follow. Stearns was sent to Chicopee to learn law from John Wells, a young man his father had given special instructions to. In August of 1848, he went to Chicopee, where he swept John's office and did chores for which he received a salary of \$50 a year.

Upon his arrival, Chicopee's population was just about 8000. He lived on the hill above the village. Cotton mills accounted for most of the manufacturing. He had several interruptions in his career. He taught school at sixteen dollars a month. Then he took a year's course at Harvard Law School in the fall of 1850. He started at Judge Well's office, but with the enthusiasm of a young lad, he went around picking up all sorts of jobs. He would take every case that he could. If a person had no money, he would still do it for the experience.

Chicopee had plenty of lawyers, and some of these were George Walker, Charles R. Ladd who was a state auditor for many years, and George D. Robinson, a congressman and Governor of the Commonwealth. Stearns had his liveliest bouts with a lawyer named Severance. When it was known that these two would appear in court, no room could be found to view the battle.

Every lawyer in town had his own justice, and was quite sure from the beginning to win any case that he brought before him. Lots of Irish immigrants came to Chicopee and there were many fights.

When Stearns settled in Chicopee, it was a Whip town, and when the Republican party organized, it gave it a two hundred majority. Political conditions were chaotic. Stearns joined the Democratic party when the Whip's party fell to pieces. He had frequent debates in public on the questions of the day. Joe Bagg's drugstore was a favorite place for talking and reading about the news of the Civil War.

Civil War.

The first time Stearns traveled to Boston was



in a chaise with a trunk strapped underneath. The Second time he traveled by car.

The family tree of Stearns goes back to "Sterne" family. This family arrived at Salem in 1630 from England on the ship "Arabella". Stearn's grandfather was a great Greek scholar, and he had a reputation that was so known that he was offered the presidency of Harvard College. He turned it down. Stearn's father was a Unitarian pastor in Rowe. His mother, Mary Monroe, was of Scotch descent. Stearns had two brothers and a sister. George Stearn's father died at the age of 63.

George Stearns met his future wife while attending a co-ed seminary at Shelburne Falls. Her name was Emily Goodnow. Stearns got married to Miss Goodnow in 1885 and she went to live with him in Chicopee. When Stearns arrived with his new wife, there were people who wondered if he made the right choice. But everyone who knew them said that their home life was beautiful. They both adored each other. He would ask her advice to whether things were right and wrong and sometimes he would use it when he wrote to the Governor for a renewal of his appointment as Justice of the Peace. He wrote, "As to my legal qualifications, I refer you to the Judge of the Superior Court. As to my moral qualifications, I refer you to my wife." Stearns was always poking fun at his wife.

Stearns and his wife had two children, Mary and Emily. Emily was frequently called Milly and she was very much like her father, so his poking fun did not bother her. The Stearns parlor was the largest room in town at that time. Mary, the older, married a Chicopee manufacturer, Frank E. Tuttle. They had a child named Emily and Stearns called her Emmy Tut.

Stearns in his mature years, has been described as "short, round, and as genial as an old-fashioned stage-driver. He was unassuming; showed a marked disregard for conventionalities, and was wholly without trace of conceit or arrogance. Stearns was a strong thinker, and a philosopher full of smartness and light. He was called the Sage of Chicopee.

Stearns would use any kind of literature whether it be Shakespeare or any old nursery rhyme depending on what the situation called for. Stearns as a lawyer, was a success from the start, but he made his own success. This was attributed to the fact that he was a plain ordinary man and did not try to talk over the jury's head. He became the

outstanding lawyer of Western Massachusetts. No one could ever come close to Stearns in making a case entertaining. Many of his cases did not involve crimes, but some injury through neglect or carelessness. Stearns was District Attorney for the western part of Massachusetts in 1873 when he started a system of out cases in the grand jury room. He would only allow people whom he felt could be convicted by a trial jury to be indicted. Saving time and money gave him a record for winning cases and has not been surpassed in the district. Stearns was never too busy to aid the youngsters in his profession with advice and encouragement. He always fought a case through, not giving up until he was beaten.

In one of his cases, Stearns was approached by a man who wanted to sue to collect a debt. In bad times, men were putting everything in their wives' names. Stearns reasoned that all the men in the jury had done this also. He shamed them by saying that they hid behind their wives' skirts. The jurymen were so shamed that they voted in his favor. Stearns acted often with apparent nonsense in court, but by the time he got through, he had made his point.

In another case; a barn in Amherst that belonged to the Agricultural College, was discovered to be on fire. There were no witnesses, but a man saw a boy in light clothes running in one direction, and three in the opposite direction. The barn burned down, and the authorities arrested a boy in light color clothing who said he was in that area with his friend playing baseball. These lads were from out West and their fathers were wealthy. The fathers came down to help them, and they figured that they needed a lawyer. Stearns was recommended to them by an innkeeper. Stearns did not want to take the case but finally agreed to take it, if they paid him five-thousand dollars apiece. The fathers thought this outrageous, so Stearns said they would not have to pay if he lost the case, only if he won it. The money and paper was to be kept in a hotel safe until the trial was over. Stearns' defense of the boys was to make them out as little angels and to dwell on the fact of insufficient evidence. The jury acquitted the boys. Before the boys left, Stearns took them in the jury room and gave each a box of matches. He told them to go and start another fire, so that he could get them off, and collect another great fee. He said this in order to impress upon them that such a thing wasn't very profitable.

the Parson's Devil (continued)

In dealing with a well-known merchant, who proved to be crooked, and who gave false testimony, he said to his face in front of the court, that "You're the champion liar of Hampden County".

In another case, he asked a man to raise his arm as high as he could since his injury. The man raised it shoulder length. This man was suing the company he was working for. Stearns, being very shrewd, asked the man to lift up his arm as high as he could as before the injury. The man complied by lifting the arm over his head.

In Stearns' later years, he acquired a partner named Judge Marcus Knowlton. Knowlton was very stubborn and he and Stearns has some pretty vigorous differences of opinion over cases. They had an office up one flight, and had an outer room and an inner room.

Stearns had a remarkable memory of where things were stored in law books. When Stearns appealed to the jury, his jokes and anecdotes were usually thought up beforehand, even though they sounded as if he just said them.

Stearns remarked, "A man isn't made Judge unless he gets old and crotchety". Mrs. Stearns hardly ever went into the courtroom when her husband was working on a case. It has been said that "Stearns fights hard, but he always fights fair, and never takes a mean advantage of opposing counsel". Stearns was well respected by his colleagues, and his fees were fair.

Stearns and Judge Wells were partners for a time, and then Wells moved to Springfield. After Wells had left, Stearns made more money in one year than the two had made together in the year before.

Stearns lived for years in the lower part of town, but moved to a house on a hill - a comfortable two-story house, painted white and that continued to be his home almost to the end of his life.

Stearns' mother lived at the house from 1857 until she died at the age of 86. Stearns liked good eating and frequently ate at Henry Hatfield's Tavern. Stearns treated everyone alike. He was very kind to the servants and pleasant to them. He would knock down praise or publicity in connection with the aid he gave to people or causes.

Stearns was a great booster of the Springfield Newspapers, the Springfield Republican.

Emerson Gaylord, the richest man in Chicopee, or close to it, said he had a worthless claim for twenty or thirty thousand dollars against someone down in the South. Stearns asked if he could try to make the person pay up. Gaylord responded by saying he would give half of what he received to Stearns. Stearns proceeded and collected the full amount owed.

Stearns loved to trade jokes with Gaylord. Stearns never missed a chance at a joke. Once, Stearns and his wife were awakened by a fire in town. He told his wife to get down on her knees and pray that it was a house that he had a mortgage on that was burning, because that was the only way he would collect his money.

Stearns served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and later the Senate. Stearns was always pushing bills to kill off dogs in the state, but this was rather odd because at one time, he even had two dogs, Tiny Tim and Toby. He disliked his political career so it was short lived.

Stearns refused many positions, even as a Justice on the State Supreme Court. He was very much welcome at the White House during Cleveland's reign as President of the United States for his political advice. Cleveland appointed Stearns as a Federal District Attorney in Boston in 1886. The President said that, "I suppose Massachusetts has the best District Attorney in the United States."

Stearns would not give his support to any political action that was not straight, even though he was an avid Democrat. Once Stearns and Henry



Cabot Lodge had a debate about politics in the City Hall; the place was packed for the event. Stearns liked books and his favorite authors were Dickens and Thackeray. Both his daughters died at comparatively young ages. Milly died first in early girlhood of a fever. Stearns was Unitarian and went to church quite regularly. In his will, he left five thousand dollars to the church.

Stearns was in Jacksonville, Florida on February 1, 1879. He toured this southern state with his wife. When Stearns was in Palatka, he participated in an alligator hunt. He was helmsman of a boat for a party of six. The men in Stearns' party took turns at shooting alligators as the boat drifted down the swamps. The shooter stood in the bow while on this hunt. Stearns gave advice to all the people who were shooting, and he irritated them so much that they made him shoot at one of the beasts. Stearns, unable to get out of it, did finally shoot at an alligator, and killed him. At least, that was what he thought, because on their arrival back at dock, and under close examination, they found that the alligator had already been dead for a month or more.

Stearns went back down south to St. Augustine in February 10, 1881. He also went abroad to Ireland to see where some of his relatives had been born. On July 4, 1882, Stearns, his wife and Mr. & Mrs. Gaylord left Chicopee to start their trip. On this trip, Stearns got sea-sick. He also kissed the original Blarney Stone in Ireland. This stone is supposed to give you the ability to persuade people. Stearns tried to use his new-found persuasion on the members of his group to borrow ten dollars. Not one in his group would give him the ten dollars. When this happened, he announced that the stone was a fake.

From Ireland, they went to England. From London they went to France, Holland, Germany and Switzerland.

Stearns loved simple pleasures and one of his best was to have a good horse. He bought horses of widely varied pedigrees and values. He usually had only one horse at a time which he kept in a stall in the rear of his house. He was often seen in his buggy going to and from Springfield. He never held on to a horse that showed any signs of shying. His chief delight was to speed on a horse. Maurice was

a coachman, and man-of-all works for Stearns.

Stearns loved trotters and one that found a special place in his heart was named Maud. He left 1500 dollars in his will with rules that she was not to be rid of, or worked again, and when her time came, she was to be humanly put out of the way.

He traded horses he did not like to a Henry H. Harris, Treasurer of Chicopee Savings Bank. They were great friends, and would even sell horses back and forth between them. They also used to race each other in winter in sleighs. Stearns once bought a lion from Harris for two dollars.

For some years, Stearns was President of the Hampden County Trotter's Association. There is a story and it seems that Stearns got the legislature to postpone the opening jury session of the Superior Court until the fourth Monday in October, so it would not interfere with his going to local races. Stearns would not shout or yell at a horse race. If a horse he was interested in finished a race, he would go down and rub its neck with a towel. Stearns liked to bet on horses, and would back up his initial wages by placing enough bets on another horse in case his original horse lost. He bet for the fun of it. Stearns did not like to go away from Chicopee for a long time.

Stearns turned down a partnership with James T. Brady, the greatest jury orator of his period, because it meant moving to New York. Stearns left an estate of nearly two hundred thousand dollars.

In 1892, Stearns was crippled by gout. He played solitaire so that it would take his mind off his gout. He knew four games of solitaire. He named his solitaire games after the people who taught them to him. He played all four games every night.

Stearns was a hypochondriac and bought any disease cure that was advertised. He retired from law shortly before he died. Failing health made him move to Brookline, Massachusetts in 1894.

Before he died and sold his home in Chicopee, he tried unsuccessfully to buy it back. When Stearns was asked while living in Brookline, what he would like to see most of all, he answered that he'd rather see a piece of Chicopee more than anything else.

Stearns died at the age of 63. His body was placed in the Chicopee City Hall. The funeral was held in the largest Protestant Church. Crowds, lawyers, judges, and important people came from all over the state. There were mourners everywhere. He died in the year of 1894.

# MELZAR MOSMAN

*by Diane Lignard*

Melzar Mosman was a native of Chicopee, born on March 10, 1843, and died January 11, 1925. Melzar lived at 43 Chapin Street for 60 years. He attended Chicopee High where he was considered a talented student and individual.

He was married in 1867, at the age of 24, to Miss Ellen Harvey. She was a native of Vermont who moved to Chicopee at the age of 18 and finished her education at Chicopee High.

Melzar was one of the best known and leading bronze casters in the country.

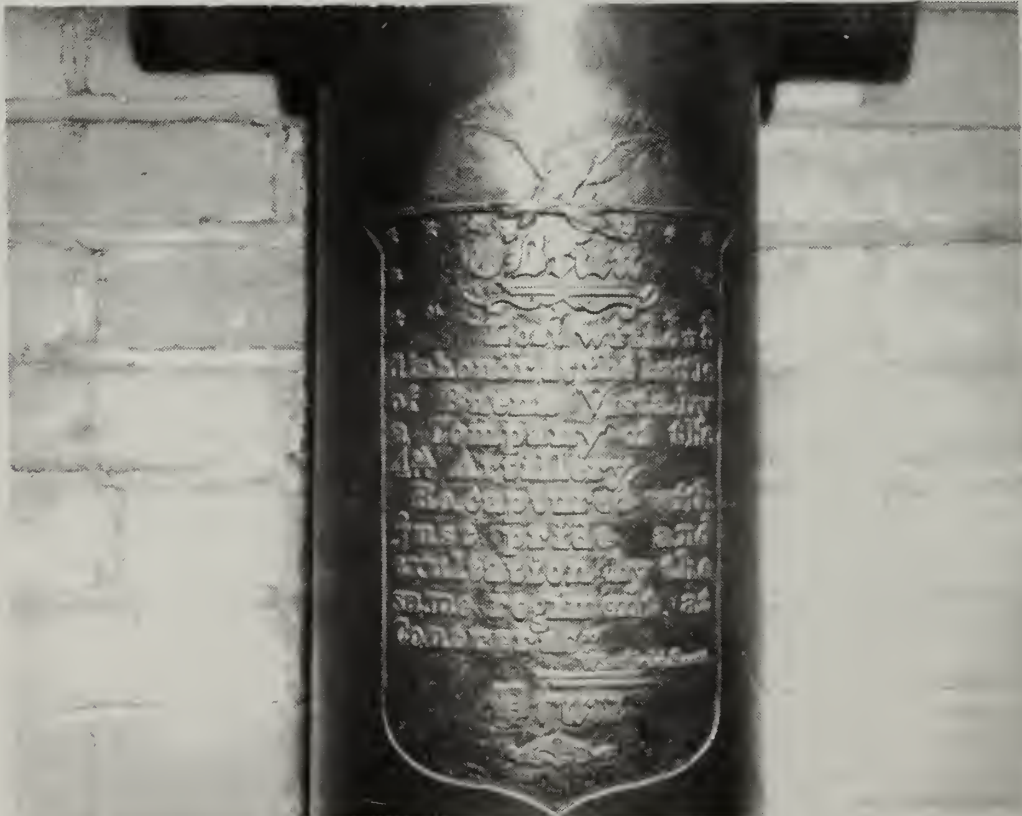
Melzar traveled throughout the country and by 1924 he had been around the world.

His career started in 1860 where he worked with his father at the Ames Co., known for their famous manufacturing of swords, knives, and small tools. The Ames Company became equally famous for the bronzing and casting of cannons and cannon balls.

Melzar's best creations developed after 1884 when he opened his foundry in Chicopee at the corner of Nonotuck and Gilmore Sts. From there he was contracted to work for a man named Saint Gaudens.

St. Gaudens was also a well-known sculptor and he was known to have a very bad temper. He was sometimes called the "crank". Disregarding his temper, when he saw a good piece of art he spoke of it, but if he saw a flaw in the work he would have taken a hammer to it until it was irreparable. This was proven to be the statue at Springfield, Il. He once said that "the best work in Americas comes from Mosman."

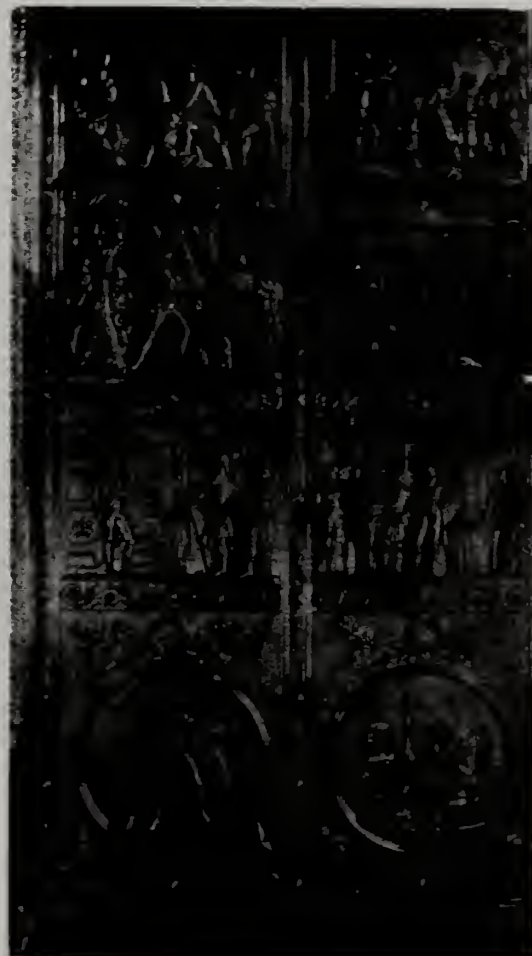
Mosman did many works of art during his life time, one of which includes the statue that stood at the old Chicopee High School grounds put up in honor of a former principal, William Mitchell, by the widow of George M. Steins. This statue was stolen during a fire at the school, but was later found. It now stands in the Fairview Cemetery.

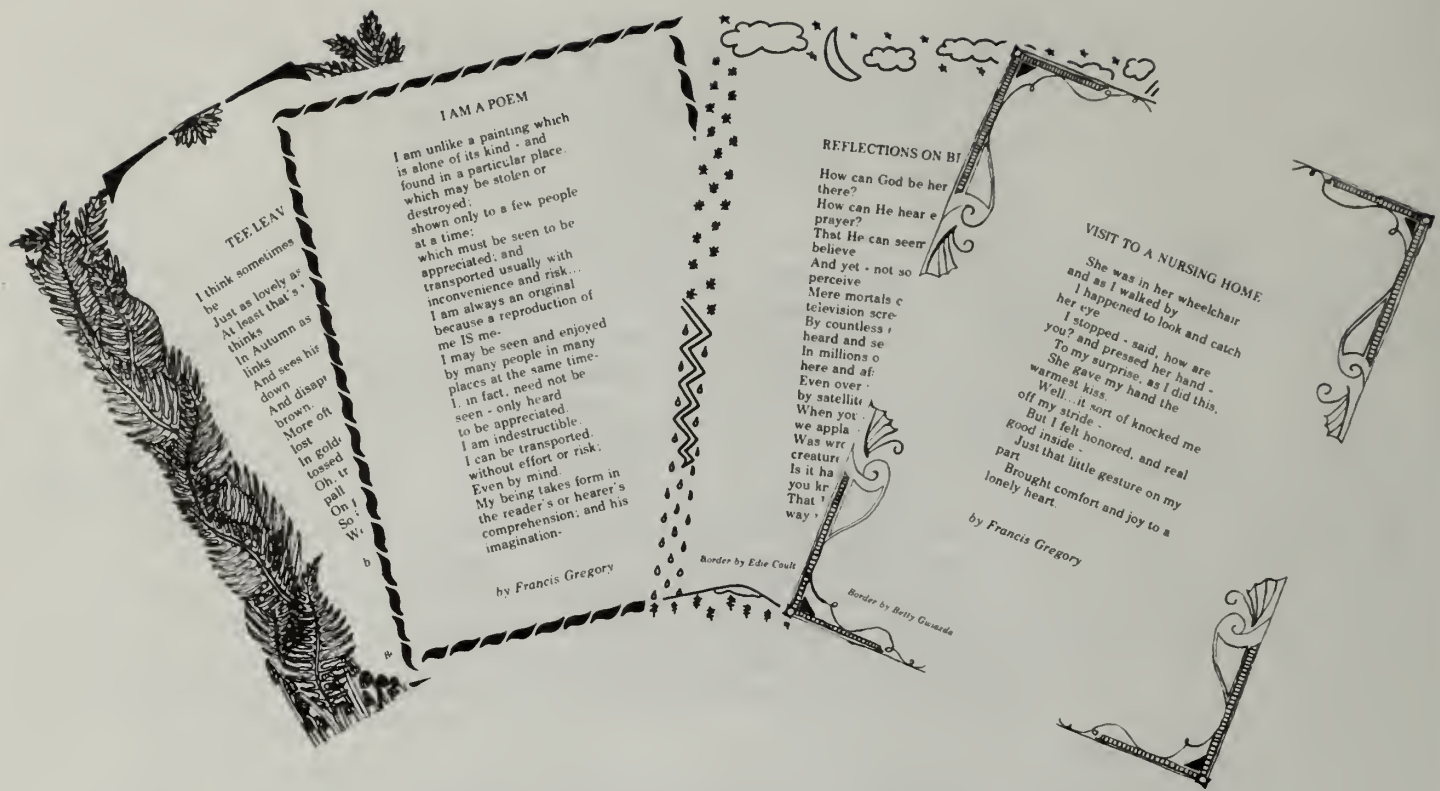




Other works are the plaques at the entrance of the City Hall, a solid bronze statue "Minute Man", the DeWitte Clinton Statue in New York City and also a portion of the ball in City Hall Park, "Washington on Horseback" Ben Franklin Memorial on the Boston Common, General Grant, Banks, Butler and Taylor; also a soldier for the Westfield Monument, a soldier monument in the National Capitol, and in the National cemeteries in Virginia and Newbury, N.C., and a bell at the steeple of Hartford's Episcopal Church.

Works that may be found in this area are, a plaque in the Third Congregational Church. This was dedicated in memory of Rev. Burton W. Lockhart. Another may be found in the first house built in Springfield called the Bowles Building. The most famous of all his works is that of the bronzed doors located in the wings of the Capital Building.





## Chicopee's Contemporary Poet

by Mary Peters

"I am always an original because a reproduction of me is me." This is one line from "I am a poem", one of the many published pieces of work by Francis Gregory, a seventy-year-old contemporary poet, who just recently moved from Chicopee to South Hadley, Mass.

Mr. Gregory started to really get into his poetry shortly after he retired from a law career (General Practitioner), about four years ago.

He revealed that many of his inspirations and ideas for his writings come from his work with the elderly.

Francis Gregory is a volunteer at the Mercy Hospital in Springfield, and works mostly with the elderly folk. He talks to them and becomes a friend, and if his patients end up at a nursing home, he tries to keep in touch with them. He believes that his patients enjoy listening to and reading his poetry. Furthermore, when people read some of his poetry about the hospital and nursing homes, Mr. Gregory hopes that it will encourage those people who have loved ones to go and see them.

Mr. Gregory also loves to write about his experiences with nature and the people around him. Once while golfing, he was so frustrated about losing his golf balls in the leaves, he wrote a poem about it entitled "Tee Leaves". This just happened to start off his life of poetry. In 1975 "Tee Leaves" was published in the *HOLYOKE TRANSCRIPT* as the first of his long lines of writings.

Francis Gregory enjoys reading Robert Frost's works along with those of Robert Herrick and William Shakespeare's plays, and sonnets.

Mr. Gregory graduated from Chicopee High School in 1927, and although he wasn't really interested in writing then, he remembers doing well in English, and Peggy Short sticks out in his mind as one of the best English teachers he had.

Francis Gregory told us that "to write a poem you have to be imaginative, and you have to use your mind. If you want to try to write a good poem, you just don't sit down and rattle it off-it's hard work." According to Robert Frost "you have to be a hero to write a poem."





On the following pages we have selected some of Francis G. Gregory's wonderful poems for you to enjoy.

*Photo by Laurie Plasse*

*Border by Jane Morin*



## TEE LEAVES

I think sometimes a poem can  
be  
Just as lovely as a tree  
At least that's what a golfer  
thinks  
In Autumn as he walks the  
links  
And sees his arching ball come  
down  
And disappearin leaves of  
brown.  
More oft than not his ball is  
lost  
In golden raiment trees have  
tossed  
Oh, trees these days can cast a  
pall  
On golfers searching for a ball  
So if this poem not lovely be  
Well-neither is a naked tree.

*by Francis Gregory*

*Border by Edie Coulter*





## I AM A POEM

I am unlike a painting which  
is alone of its kind - and  
found in a particular place.  
which may be stolen or  
destroyed;  
shown only to a few people  
at a time;  
which must be seen to be  
appreciated; and  
transported usually with  
inconvenience and risk...  
I am always an original  
because a reproduction of  
me IS me-  
I may be seen and enjoyed  
by many people in many  
places at the same time-  
I, in fact, need not be  
seen - only heard  
to be appreciated.  
I am indestructible.  
I can be transported.  
without effort or risk;  
Even by mind.  
My being takes form in  
the reader's or hearer's  
comprehension; and his  
imagination-

*by Francis Gregory*



## REFLECTIONS ON BELIEVING

How can God be here and  
there?  
How can He hear every  
prayer?  
That He can seems hard to  
believe  
And yet - not so when we  
perceive  
Mere mortals on a  
television screen  
By countless people  
heard and seen  
In millions of places  
here and afar  
Even over wide oceans  
by satellite star.  
When you think this miracle  
we applaud  
Was wrought by lowly  
creatures of God,  
Is it hard to believe when  
you kneel in prayer  
That He has YOU "tuned in"  
way up there?

*Border by Edie Coulter*





## VISIT TO A NURSING HOME

She was in her wheelchair  
and as I walked by

I happened to look and catch  
her eye

I stopped - said, how are  
you? and pressed her hand -

To my surprise, as I did this,  
She gave my hand the  
warmest kiss.

Well...it sort of knocked me  
off my stride -

But I felt honored, and real  
good inside -

Just that little gesture on my  
part

Brought comfort and joy to a  
lonely heart.

*by Francis Gregory*

*Border by Betty Gwiazda*

# RECIPES

## Crisp Sugared Wafers

- 1) Place  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cups California walnut halves in a shallow pan. Heat in oven at 375 degrees for about 15 minutes. Stir frequently. Take nut halves out of oven when done.
- 2) Cook, 1 cup sugar,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup water, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1 tsp. salt, to soft ball stage (236 degrees) without stirring. Remove from heat; add  $1\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. vanilla and nuts.
- 3) Stir gently until the nuts are well coated and the mixture becomes creamy. Turn out on a greased platter. Separate the walnuts as they cool.

(Family recipes by ~Annette Laffond, submitted by Laura Laffond)

## Pumpkin Bars

Mix 4 eggs,  $1\frac{2}{3}$  cups sugar,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup oil, 12 oz. pumpkin, 2 cups flour, 2 tsp. baking powder, 1 tsp. baking soda and 2 tsp. cinnamon, in a  $17 \times 11$  greased pan and bake at  $350^{\circ}$  for 25 to 30 minutes.

## Frosting for Pumpkin Bars

2 cups confectioners sugar, 4 oz. butter, 3 oz. cream cheese, and 1 tsp. vanilla.

(taken from Liz Fountains' family recipe)



## Chocolate-Mint Wafers

### Cookie:

Cream  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup butter, and 1 cup sugar thoroughly. Add 1 egg; beat well. Sift 2 cups flour,  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup cocoa, 1 tsp. baking powder,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking soda; add alternately with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup milk; mix thoroughly; chill.

Roll  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch thick. Cut floured  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch cutter. Bake on greased cookie sheet, at 350 degrees for 8 minutes.

### Mint-filling:

Combine  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup confectioners sugar, dash of salt, 2 drops peppermint extract and 3 to 4 tps. of light cream; beat until of spreading consistancy.

Put the filling between 2 cookies. Makes 2 dozen.

(Family recipes by ~Annette Laffond, Submitted by Laura Laffond.)

## Grapenut Pudding

Let  $\frac{2}{3}$  grapenuts stand 15 minutes in 1 quart milk. Beat 2 egg yolks and add, save whites for meringue. Add  $\frac{2}{3}$  cups sugar, 1 cup raisins, a pinch of salt, sprinkle top with nutmeg. Bake at 350 about 45 minutes. When done spread meringue made with 2 egg whites sweetened over the top. Brown in oven. Store covered in refrigerator.

(Taken from Liz Fountaines' family recipe)

# The Men Who Made A Bank And Started A Town

## Chicopee Savings — The Early Years 1854-1864

*pictures Chicopee Savings Bank by Stephen R. Jendrysik*

One hundred and thirty three years ago a group of Chicopee men petitioned the Legislature for a charter for the "Chicopee Savings Bank", where all men could deposit their earnings safely, under the protection of the state, and where those who wanted to build homes or develop industries could borrow money at a reasonable rate. It was nine years, however, before conditions were such that the charter could be utilized.

On October 1, 1839, the final link had been completed in the Boston-to-Springfield Railway and by 1845, Springfield was linked to Albany, New York, by the Western Railroad. That same year the Connecticut Valley Railway linked Hartford and Chicopee. The Charlestown Watchman said: Bostonians will not be dependent on a little area of twelve miles for vegetables, fruits, and fresh provisions. The beautiful and rich valley of the Connecticut, the garden of New England, is now spread out before our doors, and we may receive articles as fresh and about as easily from there as from Concord or Lexington.

The doors of New England were indeed open to the Valley. The population of Springfield which Chicopee was part of jumped to almost 11,000 by 1845, an increase of 4,000 in just five years. Chicopee was part of Springfield and while in 1835 four large mills employed over thirteen hundred workers, by 1841 that number had reached twenty-eight hundred. In 1820 John Chase and Charles McCallan, agents of the Springfield Canal Company, brought the first Irish laborers from New York to Chicopee to construct the canals and the foundations of the mills and to lay brick for the factory tenements. Some of the Irish who worked on the Blackstone Canal and the Great Western Railroad filtered to Chicopee for additional work. The Springfield canal company failed to attract enough local workers so Irish laborers were imported--Chase brought an additional sixty Irishmen in 1832. The number of Irish immigrants rose



CHARLES McCLALLAN.

substantially; by the year 1858 the mill population was sixty percent Irish. The men who brought the first Irish immigrants to Chicopee were among those who met at the Wells Homestead to form the Chicopee Savings Bank. John Chase and Charles McCallan were incorporators of the Chicopee Savings Bank.



By the year 1844, a civic uprising culminated in a demand for township status. With the growing expansion of business and the development of commercial business houses, along with the increase in population, the people of Chicopee petitioned for incorporation as a town under the laws of Massachusetts. This initial petition was rejected by the General Court mainly because of the opposition presented by Springfield. Timothy W. Carter, a member of the original Board of Trustees of the Chicopee Savings Bank, led the opposition to and successfully blocked a petition to incorporate Springfield as a city in 1848. The resulting dissension served to revive enthusiasm for a separate government; a petition signed by 700 citizens of Cabotville, Chicopee Falls, Chicopee Street and Willimansett was sent to the Legislature. After much wrangling over the area to be included, the General Court decided upon the name of Chicopee, (Cabot had been the first Choice), the Governor signed the Act of Incorporation on April 29, 1848. At that time there were 4,761 votes and a total population of 7,861.

Ahead was a devastating Civil War which was to be deeply felt by the entire Chicopee Community. The once quiet village faced the tumultuous decade which preceded that terrible war. There were those who would question the changes wrought by increased industrialization. The men who met at Cabot Hall were the same who a few years before had petitioned the Legislature for a charter for the "Cabot Savings Bank." Of the original petitioners, Sylvanus Adams, Ezekiel Blake, Adolphus G. Parker, and Amaziak Bullens were elected to the original Board of Selectmen while John Wells, Charles R. Ladd and George S. Taylor served Chicopee in the General Court in the 1850's. All three were present in the General Court at the original incorporation of the Chicopee Savings Bank. The name Chicopee represented a change from the original petition because in 1845, Chicopee had been called Cabotville; with incorporation as a town the official name of the town became the name of the Bank.

The Chicopee Savings Bank opened for business on March 6, 1854, at the homestead of Jerome Wells. The Wells Homestead was located at the present site of the main branch of the Chicopee Public Library. This would be the bank's place of business for the next twenty years. The Chicopee Savings Bank was not Chicopee's first bank. The first bank established in the city was the First National Bank of Chicopee. Like the other Commercial banks of the day, few though they were, it accepted only accounts of those with wealth and

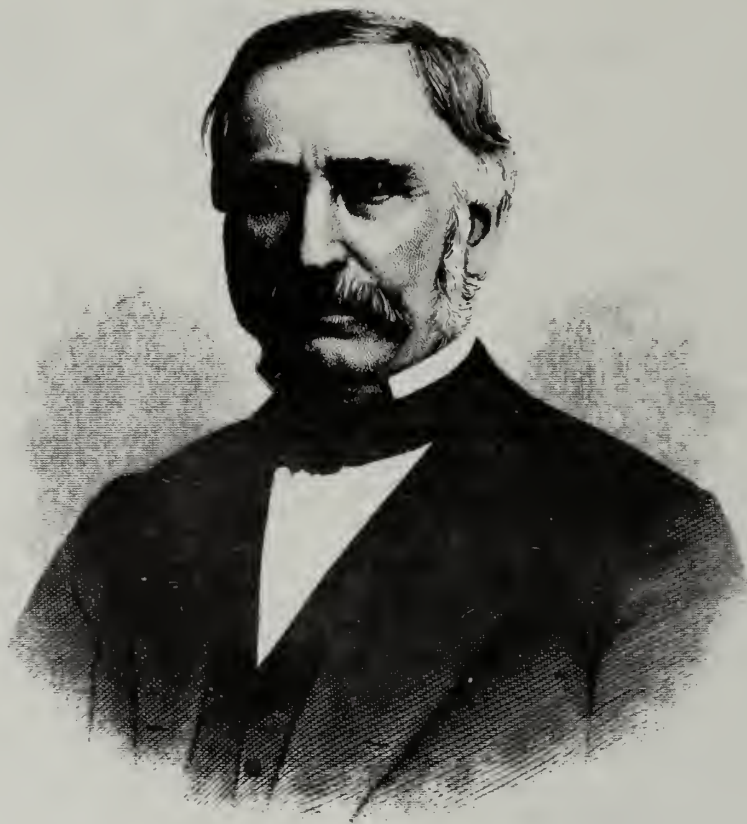


Where the bank started . . . homestead of Jerome Wells when on March 6, 1854 the Chicopee Savings Bank opened and remained there for twenty years.

those engaged in commerce, traditions, priorities and investment philosophy were all geared to handling large sums of money. The working man was left without a place to keep his money safely, much less to earn interest. The Savings Bank idea had originated with concerned men of prominence in Boston and Philadelphia in the year 1816. Deposits of many are accepted, pooled and invested prudently by Boards of Directors made up of the very persons who established and organized these "institutions for savings," "societies for savings," "saving fund societies," as the first ones were called. The sole beneficiaries were the depositors, who earned dividends or interest, credited to their accounts annually. Thus was born the type of financial institution known as a mutual savings bank, a bank where all men could deposit their earnings safely, under the protection of the state, and where those who wanted to build homes or develop industries could borrow money at a reasonable rate. A bank conceived and dedicated to community service.

At the first annual meeting, December 15, 1854, two loans were made, each to men with a name famous in Massachusetts history. But it is certain that that first Board of Investment carefully selected William Pynchon, a prosperous Springfield Merchant who received a loan of \$1,000 on real estate, and Chester W. Chapin \$2,000 on personal security. It is certain that Mr. Chapin's personal security was good since, according to the census of 1850, he was the richest man in the Valley. Mr. Chapin who at one time kept a small store on Chicopee Street, was the President of the Connecticut River Railroad in 1854.

*Border by Jane Morin*



*Engraved by J. A. N. Y.*

*Truly yours  
C. W. Chapin*

*Chester Chapin - Received the first loan in 1854; he was President of the  
Connecticut River Railroad*



At the second annual meeting an amusing entry is made: "but few being present, no election of officers was held, the present incumbents holding their offices by right of possession." was a day of small beginnings. For its first twenty years the bank occupied rooms in the homestead of Jerome Wells, one of the organizers. Expenses were kept down by those thrifty men, as shown by a note of March 28, 1859, when it was noted "that after the payment of the extra dividend if there remains one hundred dollars, it be paid the Cabot Bank for rent, etc., for the first five years. In 1860 it was voted to pay the Cabot Bank for rent in banking house and stationery, etc., etc., the sum of \$50. per annum. The bank was small; the town was small. Yet, the early loans indicate the Chicopee Savings Bank's involvement in the growth of nationally prominent firms such as Ames and Massachusetts Arms Company. Old Cabotville was becoming a complex place. The coming of the Irish, a large ethnic minority, had changed the face of the town. These newcomers were making sixty cents a day and probably discovered that a savings account was a luxury. Yet in the bank's early records many Irish names appear; somehow they managed to save, probably to bring a brother or sister to America. Yet the bulk of the bank's business was with the prosperous Mill Owners whose names appear in many of those early records.

The Chicopee Weekly Journal for the most part reported local events. Yet frequently problems of national importance appear in its pages. One brief article reported that by citizen subscription the sum of \$500 was raised to purchase freedom for a slave. The blackman's name was T. H. Ringgold, a barber by trade. He was a run-away slave who had found his way to Chicopee. When his southern master discovered his location, a number of citizens met the owner's price and prevented Ringgold's return to the South. That incident indicated the willingness of the citizens to get involved in national problems. Officers and directors of the Chicopee Savings Bank were among those concerned citizens. Adolphus G. Parker, a vice president of the Chicopee Savings Bank, organized the Chicopee Boot and Shoe Company in 1853 and employed a work force of nearly 100. Besides being a successful industrialist in the 1850's, Mr. Parker allowed his home on Chicopee Street to be a major station on the Underground Railroad. Clare Skeele Palmer in "Annals of Chicopee Street" reports that additional stations existed at the homestead of Titus Chapin (a member of the bank's board of directors), and

Otis Skeele on Chicopee Street. Old timers still remember the tunnels to the river. Many run-away slaves were concealed in homes until night fall when they would resume their trip up river to freedom in Canada. Reverend E. B. Clark, pastor of the First Congregational Church was a leader in the area Anti-Slavery Society; the Abolitionist Movement had strong support in the town; an organization of prominent men formed the Immigrant Aid Society in Springfield. Titus Chapin was an active member of this group of Directors. The Massachusetts Arms Company through its agent Timothy W. Carter sold firearms to the fabled abolitionists John Brown while he led the Free Soilers in Kansas. A letter in Mr. Carter's personal records indicates Brown was well satisfied with the guns made in Chicopee. Mr. Carter, also a member of the Bank's original Board of Trustees had been instrumental in the creation of the company which was incorporated in 1850.

Of those original Chicopee Savings Bank officers, President Jerome Wells started his career in the dry goods business, went into banking and then served as a stockholder and director in the Gaylord Manufacturing Company. The Vice-Presidents of the Bank were Sylvanus Adams, the chief agent for the Dwight Manufacturing Company; Bildad Belcher, founder and organizer of the Belcher and Taylor Agricultural Tool Company; and John Wells, the foremost attorney in Chicopee who later became a respected jurist.

In the year 1860, the population of Chicopee was 7,261; by 1870 Chicopee would be a town of nearly 10,000 people. The treasurer of the Chicopee Savings Bank, Mr. Henry Harris reported deposits of 65,224.48 in 1860 and by the end of the decade he reported total deposits of \$307,382.46. The Civil War had been a boom period for Chicopee in terms of Industrial growth and expansion. Since labor turnover remained very high, new labor had to be constantly recruited to fill the vacancy by those who were leaving mill employment. A labor recruiter operating near the Canadian border was instructed by local cotton companies to recruit girls from Quebec and soon the first group of French - Canadian girls were brought to Chicopee to work in the mills. With the increased demands of War production many French - Canadian men as well as women came to Chicopee.

The four years of the Civil War (1861-1865) severely tested the resources and patriotism of the town. The population of Chicopee at that time was unusual owing to the large number of women employed in the cotton mills and similar manufacturing industries. Consequently, the military quota

was small. But the town heroically responded to every call, and when recruiting stopped in 1865, Chicopee had furnished forty-eight more men than were due as its quota. During the four years 680 men volunteered to serve. The young principal of the Chicopee Falls High School, Edward Nettleton, rose to the rank of Colonel in the Thirty-First Massachusetts Infantry. The sons of members of the Savings Bank corporation served in almost every theater of the war: Benning Leavitt 2nd served in the twenty-seventh Massachusetts Infantry; Abner Abbey was a member of the First Massachusetts Cavalry; George Blaisdell was in the 27th; their regiments which played a vital role in the climatic Battle of Gettysburg. Corporator Dexter Mosman's nephews William, Mulzar and Emory responded to Uncle Sam's call and went to the front. William Mosman, had been the Valedictorian of the Center High School graduating class of 1861. The subject of his valedictory address was "The Formation of Character"; upon graduation he volunteered and served in Virginia. His cousin, Emory Mosman, a boy of 17, volunteered to undertake a hazardous mission inside the enemy's lines at Port Hudson, the mission was personally commissioned by General Banks. The boy was never seen or heard from again. Bildad Belcher, Vice President of the bank, had a most famous nephew in the Civil War. That nephew was Lt. General Arthur MacArthur who had been born at the Belcher Homestead in Chicopee Falls, and was called "The Boy Colonel of the West" for his daring

exploits at the Battle of Nashville. Later as a General of the Army MacArthur served in the Spanish American War. His son Douglas MacArthur commanded American Forces in the south Pacific during World War II.

The community's civil war records are intact due to the dilligence of a young graduate of Harvard College. George Dexter Robinson, the young principal of Chicopee Center High School, voluntarily offered to compile and preserve the records of all the city's fighting men and the stories of their military careers. His records note that most Chicopee men served in the 10th, 27th, 31st, 37th, 46th, and parts of the 21st, 34th, and 57th Massachusetts Regiments and the 1st Massachusetts Cavalry. Although the state later authorized that such a permanent record be kept, Robinson continued to keep the information current until his departure from the city to study law at Harvard. The story is told that the man appointed to complete his task failed to do so and thus left the latter part of the war records incomplete. The records do show that the seventy-two Chicopee Soldiers who gave their lives included: Thomas Ronan at Gettysburg, Benjamin Reed at Wilderness, Thomas Moriarty at Antietam and Chauncy Hendrick at Cold Harbor. Tablets in the entrance to the city hall were corrected by the soldiers aid society in 1971 to mark the memory, for of these seventy-two, most are buried where they fell. Nearly half the name of those comemorated are Irish, for the immigrant played a vital role in the city's war effort.

the 27th, their regiments played a vital role



*Governor George Dexter Robinson during the Civil War compiled all soldier's records.*





*Treasurer Charles Seaver and staff front of the Bank's first real home  
in the Kendall Block on Market Square.*



Residence of Emerson Gaylord, Chicopee, Mass.

*Border by Marie Delgado*

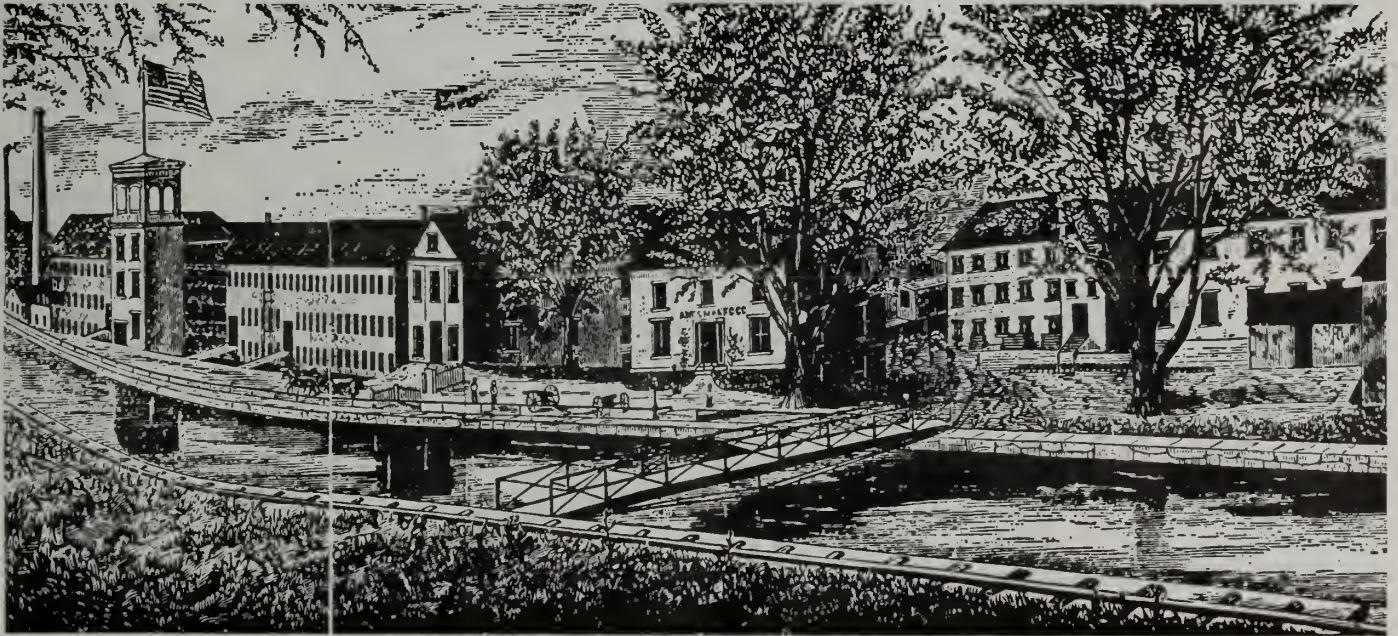


In a period of unbalanced wages and skyrocketing prices, Chicopee Industry made great strides in the eyes of the nation during the Civil War. Increased orders poured into mills and factories for guns, swords, locks, tent cloth, knapsacks and other leather goods. With industries hitting a peak of production, young girls of all families and nationalities from New England, New York State, and Canada volunteered their assistance to the war effort. The Ames Company had begun to fill orders for swords, cannon and small arms for Virginia and the Southern States when the government stepped in, placed large orders and put our city's name in the forefront of military production. During the Civil War the company had 700 men in its employ who turned out 1,000 swords a day in addition to other war materials such as sabers and cannon. In the 1860's Ames Manufacturing carried out an unusual order for the Springfield Armory when they fashioned a picket fence in the design of pikes used in the era of the Crusader. The Armory wishing to keep grazing cattle from lawns and drill fields sought an appropriation for the work. Since nothing was forthcoming, the obsolete iron cannon and cannon

balls which had been deposited in Springfield were used in the fence and the Ames Company received a specified amount of additional scrap in payment. Today this unique fence surrounds the largest community college in Massachusetts.

During the War, the Bank sold numerous kinds of government bonds. The records show large daily sales of War Bonds. In 1865, the bank listed in its resources \$33,000 in United States War Bonds. The majority of Chicopee Industrial Establishment was oriented so the peace brought serious economic problems. However, the growth of the town's population from 7,261 persons in 1860 to 9,607 in 1870, 12,286 in 1880 and 14,050 in 1890 enhanced the possibilities for the establishment of new enterprises in Chicopee.

George Dexter Robinson and Emerson Gaylord will lead the Chicopee Savings in the 70's and 80's. The bank will continue its vital role in the commercial and residential growth of the community. Today Chicopee Savings is the oldest continuing institution in our city. In 1979, the Chicopee Savings celebrated one hundred and twenty-five years of continuous service.



# CHOLERA IN CHICOPEE

Research by Joan Mamicki

Aug. 12, 1854

3 fatal cases of cholera in this village, on the "Patch" during the week - a mother and 3 children (Fitzerald) arrived a few days from

An acquaintance of ours had 3 attacks of cholera and says in each case he cured himself by swallowing tobacco juice!

If people wish to keep off cholera; take a daily swim in the healthful waters of the Conn. River.

## THE CHOLERA STRIKES

Aug. 22, 1849

At the writing of this; 5 cases of cholera, 2 deaths last Sat. morning. Those now suffering are Irish, and those who died last week were of foreign lands. We trust our citizens won't be frightened by the breaking out of this fearful disorder in our midst, and that no one will run away from his duty, in case he should be called upon to attend the suffering. Disease confined to lower part of village called "Patch".

TAKEN FROM "HISTORICAL JOURNAL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS"

On July 13, 1831, in Spfld. Weekly Republican, Western Mass.. first heard of the plague "cholera morbus" which massacred so many thousands in Europe.

Cholera reported in Montreal-June 26, 1832.... New York City reports first cholera victim-June 26, 1832..... By July, N.Y. had 689 deaths from the disease, from a total of 1494 reported cases.

By August 18, 1832: cholera had struck Boston.

September 15, 1832: reported in Hartford, Conn.

Severity of disease grew within the public mind. Cholera news appeared daily in local papers and seemed to exist in every major city:

Hartford  
Boston  
New York  
Montreal  
Baltimore  
Washington  
Syracuse  
New Orleans  
Albany  
Philadelphia  
Rochester

To avoid panic in Spfld., action by civic and medical factions was required. To prescribe a cure, a cause had to be determined. Suggestions: yellow fever, small pox, or spotted fever.

January 7, 1832: Spfld. Weekly Republican (from the Catechism of Health) (a local medical pamphlet) the published a report of 10 most prominent causes of cholera.....

1. insufficient exercise
2. late rising and later retiring
3. inattention to cleanliness of clothing and dwellings
4. food rendered pernicious by modern cooking. Adulteration of food and drink, abuse of appetite. Over seasoning and eating too wide a variety of foreign dishes or flavors.
5. Use of intoxicating drink; only wholesome drink is pure water; every drop of alcohol produces injury.
6. defective and improper clothing; included clothing which can't be adjusted to sudden changes in the weather, that which inhibits free movement of limbs or binds some part of the body too firmly.
7. influences of cold exposure to inclement weather after being in a heated room.
8. intense application of the mind; long hours of mental application care.
9. giving way to apssion: violent anger and ambition, jealousy and fear.
10. unnecessary use of medicine.

### DIFFERENT IDEAS:

cholera prevailed throughout the globe, in dissimilar climates, during any season, in any weather.



June 21, 1832: Health Committee was appointed by Spfld.'s citizens at a town meeting. The committee consisted of the most respected men in the community:

Lemuel Beldon, John Stone, George Frost, Mathew Baker, and J. B. Brigman.

Inspection of town is undertaken on June 29th to determine the possibility of cholera in Spfld. \$300 made available by the Committee, with an additional \$700 set aside if cholera is discovered within the city limits. They discussed the best means of prevention and advised personal cleanliness and bathing at least twice a week.. Uncooked vegetables and fruits (such as those in salads) were to be avoided. Abstinence of pastry and pickled items was a must. Most of all, don't worry about cholera!!!Those who worried were said to be the most common victims.

Victims: usually lower class, ill-fed, ill-clothed, misery, poverty, etc. Those who lived in low, damp houses, huts or cellars.

By 1833: cholera disappeared; but no cases were ever reported in the epidemic of 1832 in Spfld. Remedies, cures, preventions, and medical opinions were in the papers, but no reports of death in the city.

Newspapers printed numerous accounts of cholera in Cabotville (Chicopee) and in "New City" (Holyoke).

In Aug. 1849: reported in Cabotville among Irish tenements. Every day as many as 10 to 20 deaths attributed to cholera were reported in the "New City". A great number of Irish fled from the "New City" and settled in Cabotville in the "Patch", Irish section of town. This flood of Irish to Cabotville was cited as the cause of the cholera outbreak there. By late Aug., 1849, a number of cholera deaths began to dwindle. Eventually, fatal cases of cholera were reported in Spfld.



A list of articles in newspapers pertaining to the cholera outbreak in Spfld. and Chicopee:

#### SPRINGFIELD WEEKLY REPUBLICAN:

January 7, 1832 page 3  
 January 28, 1832 page 1  
 March 24, 1832 page 1  
 June 30, 1832 page 3  
 June 23, 1832 page 2  
 June 28, 1832 page 1  
 March 3, 1832 page 3  
 March 16, 1832 page 1  
 July 13, 1832 page 1  
 July 21, 1832 page 3  
 August 4, 1832 page 2  
 Sept. 22, 1832 page 3

#### SPRINGFIELD DAILY REPUBLICAN:

January 10, 1849 page 2  
 May 19, 1849 page 2  
 May 21, 1849 page 2  
 June 7, 1849 page 2  
 June 6, 1849 page 2  
 July 18, 1849 page 2  
 July 19, 1849 page 2  
 August 23, 1849 page 2

# COMMENTS PLEASE . . .

February 12, 1979

Dear Sirs,

I am a native of Chicopee and, passing through town a few days ago, picked up a copy of Vol. II, No. 3 in Hastings. I found it to be a very handsome and well-written publication. Would you kindly place my name on your mailing list and notify me whenever a new issue appears?

More to the point, would you please send me one copy of all available back issues and bill me? I am writing a book on the France-Americans of New England and would like to work in material such as you are publishing on my home town. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Gerald J. Brault  
Professor of French

Dear Sirs:

I am enclosing a check for five dollars towards the continuation of your Skipmunk Magazine.  
I find it most enjoyable besides learning scores of unknown facts of my native city, which is appreciated.

I seem to recollect a band stand in Market Square during summers while residing on Springfield Street, am I correct?

My many thanks to those who bring us realization of what a worthwhile heritage Chicopee has.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Larkin

Feb. 3, 1979

To the Staff of Skipmunk:

I have enclosed a check for future issues of your wonderful magazine, as a patron. I cannot begin to tell you the wonderful hours my husband (who cannot read as a result of a stroke) and myself have had reading about the history of Chicopee. My husband enjoys them because being born and raised in Chicopee he can recall many of the incidents you write about. I thank you for a beautiful job in keeping Chicopee alive.

Sincerely yours,

Mona C. Sypek

15818 Westbrook Ave.  
Detroit, Mi, 48223  
March 14, 1979



Layne  
Brzezowski





## CONTRIBUTORS

**Ann Marie Starzyk** is one of our hardworking co-editors and she wrote this issue's feature story.

**Mary Frisbie**, another co-editor did all of the typesetting for this issue.

**Anne Morin and Pat Mauer** are former CHS students who contributed the embroidery design on page 1.

**Jan Balicki** has taken many photographs for **SKIPMUNK MAGAZINE**.

**Stephen Olivo Jr.**, a CHS English teacher and advisor for **SKIPMUNK MAGAZINE**, has been a continual source of help and leadership for us throughout every publication.

**Lynne LeBlanc and Phillip Rodowicz**, are CHS students who contributed their poems for this issue.

**Ellen Soja**, another co-editor put much work into this magazine.

**Diane Lignard**, has done a great amount of research for the **George M. Stearns and Melzar Mosman** stories.

**MR. HAROLD McCALL** is the Graphic Arts instructor at Chicopee High School. Without his patience and understanding, this magazine would never have been printed.

**Mary Peters**, is a high school senior who has written stories for **SKIPMUNK**.

**Stephen R. Jendryslk**, has contributed so very much to **SKIPMUNK MAGAZINE**. We thank him.

**Joan Mamicki**, is a CHS graduate who wrote the **Cholera** in Chicopee story.

**Jane Morin**, sketched our front cover and drew many borders.

**Betty Gwiazda, Edie Coulter and Andrea Frodema**, all drew terrific borders for this issue.

**John Magdziarz and Laurie Plasse**, are CHS students who have taken many photos for **SKIPMUNK**.



# CHICOPEE SAVINGS BANK HAS A COMMITMENT TO CHICOPEE

The Chicopee Savings Bank has made a continuing effort to be involved in Chicopee's well-being for the past one hundred and twenty-five years.

Before Chicopee became a city...Chicopee Savings was already rooted in Market Square, serving its citizens in the home of Jerome Wells, its first president. That was in 1854 and Chicopee Savings was located where the Chicopee Public Library now stands.

In 1874...to better accommodate our many patrons, we moved to larger facilities on the ground floor of what now is the revised version of the Market Square Hotel. In 1924, we moved once more, this time to 36 Center Street, just a few steps from Market Square.

Then, in 1973, owing to our ever increasing number of patrons, our main office shifted another few steps to our present location, a new million dollar building at 70 Center Street. Then we added a satellite facility at 596 East Street and another at the Fairfield Mall.

As we start our 125th year of serving Chicopee, you might say we're deeply rooted and attached to Chicopee, scarcely a block from where we started. You know, our heart's in Chicopee. We've helped to shape its history and become part of its history. Today, we're Chicopee's oldest continuing established corporation.

For this success...we thank you and your parents and their parents!



CHICOPEE, MASS.

1878



## CHICOPEE SAVINGS

main office : 70 center street

569 East Street - 594-6692 - Fairfield Mall